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Northern Region News



No. 3

February 26, 1988

Bitterroot National Forest

The Constitution Tree

Montana's first settlement, the St. Mary's Mission, has a special Constitution Tree, thanks, in part, to the Forest Service.

Bitterroot NF Supervisor *Robert Morgan* made the presentation to St. Mary Historical Society president *Lucylle Evans* and other Mission board members at an August 1, 1987, dedication in Stevensville, MT.

The Constitution Tree, a ponderosa pine, was donated by the Bitterroot NF in cooperation with the St. Mary Mission Board, and planted by Stevensville third graders on Arbor Day. A granite marker reminds Mission visitors of the tree's significance.



Carmilla Brislan, Lucylle Evans, Mary Laware, Mary Vondehay, Robert Morgan, Dale Thacker, Rev. James Gannon



"From seedling to majestic pine we build a nation."

Beaverhead and Deerlodge National Forests

Montana Riparian Association Letter of Understanding

The Beaverhead and Deerlodge NFs are cooperating in an ecological type classification program for riparian areas of southwestern Montana.

Dr. Wendel Hann, R-1 ecosystem manager, explained that the ecological type classification of riparian areas is part of a long-range program designed to protect and improve management of riparian areas in Montana. The classification of riparian plant communities provides a framework in which best management practices may be developed and improved.

The Montana Riparian Association (MRA) is coordinating the overall classification effort involving various agencies and individuals in Montana. Forest Service involvement in data collection for the southwestern Montana riparian classification has been coordinated by ecologists Dan Svoboda, Beaverhead NF, and John Joy, Deerlodge NF. Dr. Hann said a draft of this classification will be available in June. "This ecological classification will include management implications for Forest Service riparian systems. This information may also be useful for management of similar areas on adjacent land ownerships," he added.

During the past several years, the Forest Service has played an important role in the development and organization of the cooperative effort that resulted in the formation of the MRA.

The Forest Service was part of a 1981 Montana Rural Areas Development Committee that initially recommended development of riparian system classification to facilitate improved management of Montana's riparian areas.

The MRA was established in June 1986 at the University of Montana.

In addition to the Forest Service, MRA sponsors include the Bureau of Land Management, Bureau of Indian Affairs, Soil Conservation Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, United States Environmental Protection Agency, The Nature Conservancy, Champion Timberlands, Montana Dept. of Fish, Wildlife & Parks, and the Western Energy Company.

According to Dr. Hann, Regional Forester Jim Overbay recently signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the MRA at the University of Montana.

It established terms of cooperation, and provided for the sharing of riparian data and information to address mutual technical problems and concern regarding classification and management of riparian plant communities.

To date, eight of Montana's ten NFs are actively involved with the MRA. In addition to the Beaverhead and Deerlodge, the other six NFs are the Bitterroot, Custer, Helena, Kootenai, Lewis & Clark, and Lolo.



Dr. Sidney S. Frissell, Dean of Forestry, James C. Overbay, Regional Forester, Dr. Raymond C. Murray, Associate Vice President, Univ. of Montana

Nez Perce National Forest

Historic Materials Wanted

An inventory of historic materials relating to the Moose Creek Ranger District, Nez Perce NF, is being compiled by Northwest Historical Consultants.

So dig deep. If you have photographs, written materials, or even personal experiences that you think are of historic value, contact Northwest Historical Consultants at 2780 26th Street, Clarkston, WA 99403, or call (509) 758-5773.

The Moose Creek Ranger District, P.O. Box 464, Grangeville, ID 83530, can also take your information. Their telephone number is (208) 983-2712.

All employees and retirees
are invited
to an
OPEN HOUSE
with our new
Regional Forester
John Mumma

East & West Conf. Rooms
Regional Office
Refreshments

March 11, 1988
10:00 am



Helena National Forest

Project Santa Claus

The children at Shodair Hospital's Child Psychiatric Services, Helena, MT, experienced the warmth of Christmas this year, thanks to the efforts of 50 Helena NF employees.

The employees sponsored Project Santa Claus, a community effort to ensure the 20 children would enjoy the holiday season. Because of the effort, the children received toys, clothes, Christmas Eve dinner, and a very special visit from Santa and his elves.

In a letter to the *Helena Independent Record*, Hospital Administrator John Casey praised the effort. "Our hospital staff feels very honored to know these individuals as friends of Shodair and the children and families we serve," he said.

Idaho Panhandle National Forests

Coeur d'Alene Nursery's Christmas

Employees at the Coeur d'Alene Nursery had a merry Christmas in 1987, not because of what they received, but what they gave.

According to Nursery employee Sue Anderson, brightly wrapped food collection boxes were placed in each section of the unit prior to the Christmas holiday. "It was really fun to watch these boxes fill," Anderson said.

The unit then worked with a social agency to select "their" special family, a single parent with three boys, to receive the food items. Gifts for each family member were also collected before the pre-Christmas delivery was made.

And what a delivery it was! Donated items filled the trunk and back seat of a car with enough food to last the "adopted" family an entire month.

That wasn't the best gift, however. According to Anderson, the best gift was the beautiful note of appreciation Nursery employees received from "their" family.

The **NORTHERN REGION NEWS** is published by the Northern Region Information Office for employees and retirees. Items for the newsletter should be sent to the Editor, Deanna Riebe, USDA-Forest Service, Northern Region Information Office, PO Box 7669, Missoula, MT 59807 (FTS 585-3094; commercial 329-3094).

Nez Perce National Forest

Outstanding Performance

Due to the work of super sleuths Ian Barlow and Bruce Farling, employees of the Nez Perce NF's Moose Creek Ranger District, two individuals have been convicted for game violations.

When Barlow and Farling became suspicious that numerous game violations involving one elk and up to twelve deer had occurred in the Bear Creek drainage, they investigated. According to Idaho Fish and Game Department Regional Supervisor Jerry Thiessen, they did an outstanding job of gathering and documenting evidence, including interviewing witnesses and potential suspects. They also helped pack out one elk and two deer carcasses which the department was able to salvage.

In a letter to District Ranger Dennis Dailey, Thiessen commended Barlow and Farling. "Their willingness to do more than would actually have been required of them, their thoroughness and attention to detail, and their tenacity serve as an example of your organization's commitment to protection and management of Idaho's wildlife, and exemplify the best in interagency cooperation and assistance," Thiessen said.

In Memoriam

George Stokes, 69, died Feb. 1 in Missoula. Stokes retired in 1979 after 13 years with the Forest Service. He was a mechanical engineering technician in the Missoula Equipment and Development Center (now Technology and Development Center) fabrication shop.

Before working for the Forest Service, Stokes worked for a number of Missoula-area mills.

Patrick E. Trottier, a retired Forest Service engineering technician, died of cancer Feb. 1 at St. Patrick's Hospital in Missoula. He was 61.

Trottier was born March 11, 1926, at Malta, MT, where he attended school. He served in the U.S. Army during World War II.

After his years of service he attended Montana State University at Bozeman. He then worked at various jobs including 1 year with the Bureau of Reclamation and 10 years with the Montana Department of Highways in Havre, MT.

Trottier moved to Grangeville, ID, in 1967 and began working for the Nez Perce NF. He retired in 1985.

Survivors, in addition to his wife, Shirley, of Grangeville, include one son and three daughters.

Working At Ninemile Remount Depot

by Larry Timchak, Lolo NF

The Ninemile Remount Depot may have closed many years ago, but its activities and traditions have endured.

Established in 1930, the Remount Depot was phased out as increasing road networks and advanced fire suppression technology lessened the need for packers and packstrings. The facilities formally closed in 1954 and later became the Ninemile Ranger Station, Lolo NF.

Which Remount traditions are alive and well today? Take a look.



When was the last time you had your teeth cleaned?

Wintering Stock

Pack and saddle stock are still important tools for managing the vast backcountry in R-1. From Moose Creek to the Gallatin country over 200 head of stock converge on Ninemile each winter to take advantage of the mild weather and excellent care provided by *Dean Solheim*, forestry technician (actually, Dean prefers the title of "packer"). The District produces up to 300 tons of hay and manages a ten pasture allotment to support the wintering stock.

Training

The Remount Depot initially served as a training base for packers. This tradition endures through the annual horsemanship and packing clinic which is sponsored by the RO and Forest. Over 200 people have attended the hands-on course taught by the colorful and renowned outfitter, *Smoke Elser*. The clinic focuses on traditional horse and mule use as well as light-on-the-land techniques, many of which Elser has pioneered.

Service

Be it a parade in Bozeman or packing gravel up the Lochsa, the Ninemile string is still available to lend a helping hand.



Ranger Susan Giannettino



Vet Stan Swartz prepares to float this mule's teeth.

Dean Solheim's skill at finding good horses and mules is often used by other Districts. And the fully equipped tack shop is still used to maintain and develop the equipment necessary to fulfill our backcountry mission around the Region.

Facilities

The Ninemile Ranger Station was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1980. District Ranger *Susan Giannettino* has taken an active interest in maintaining and preserving the rich cultural heritage. Forest specialists have methodically researched the historical files to develop a maintenance plan designed to preserve the historical integrity of the site.

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Interpretive

The spirit of Remount traditions is passed on to new generations through interpretive displays. With the assistance of *Mike Korn* of the Montana Arts Council, the District has developed interpretive displays to tell the Ninemile story. A detailed history of the Remount Depot entitled *Thirty-two Years in the Mule Business* is now available through the Pacific Northwest National Parks and Forests Association.

For a tradition to endure, the tradition must serve a useful purpose in a cost-effective manner. The tradition of stock use to manage National Forest backcountry continues, and Ninemile is a proud part of this tradition.

But even tradition must be responsive to changing times, so don't be surprised if you see a llama in the pasture with the horses and mules!



Gene Thoompson, Missoula RD, and Gary Chambers, Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks, lead this bunch into the chutes.



Merlin Lemmer and Darlene Cadwell coax a reluctant mule.

Retirement News

Beverly Knight, Clearwater NF, retired Dec. 3, after 20 years of government service.

Knight worked for the Pierce Ranger District at Kamiah, ID. She began as clerk typist in and performed a variety of jobs until she took over payroll responsibilities in 1978. In 1980, Knight moved into the resource clerk position, a job she held until her retirement.

She will reside in Kamiah when she isn't traveling. She says a trip to either Alaska or Hawaii is in her future.

Phyllis Rouland retired the end of January after 26 years of government service.

A native of Harlem, MT, Rouland began working for the Forest Service in 1961 at the Intermountain Northern Forest Fire Laboratory in Missoula. Since 1978, she has been on the R-1 Management Systems staff. Most recently she served as program assistant for that section.

Rouland received performance, quality and cash awards from the Forest Service in 1964, 1970, 1976, 1979, and again in 1986.

Rouland will reside in Missoula. She is the mother of two grown children: Greg Rouland and Cheryl Neilson.

John C. Tietz retired from the Missoula Technology and Development Center (MTDC) Jan. 2, 1988, after 28 years of federal service.

A graduate of the University of Minnesota, Tietz has worked as an aeronautical engineer at MTDC since 1967. He designed an array of Federal Aviation Administration certified aircraft accessories and worked to establish procedures for evaluating aircraft for smokejumping.

In addition to his years at MTDC, Tietz held positions in RO Engineering, and the U.S. Army.

Tietz will continue to make his home in Corvallis, MT, with his wife, Marga, and daughter, Ursula.

Alva C. "Ozzie" Osborn retired from the lands section of the Idaho Panhandle NFs Jan. 2.

Osborn, who has a bachelor degree in forest management from Colorado A & M, worked for the government 33 years.

He began his Forest Service career as a seasonal in 1951. After 3 years in that capacity and 3 years as a smokejumper, Osborn joined the Army. He returned to the Forest Service and worked in forestry jobs on the Beaverhead and Idaho Panhandle NFs prior to retirement.

Osborn will manage private forest lands in Idaho in the summer and travel during the winter. He lives in Coeur d'Alene with his wife, Kris.

"Work Force 1995" is the Chief's vision statement of where we want to be organizationally in achieving a diverse workforce. A video tape of Chief Robertson's recent speech to the Servicewide Civil Rights Committee, together with a brochure, has been distributed for the benefit of all employees in the Region.

To introduce WORKFORCE 1995, Robertson stated, "In the Forest Service vision statement

WORK FORCE 1·9·9·5

STRENGTH THROUGH DIVERSITY

Together, we can make both the Forest Service and all of our people the best they can be.



F. DALE ROBERTSON, CHIEF

from WORK FORCE 1995 brochure, 1987

"We have a great heritage in the Forest Service, but we need to keep pace with changes in our society and make our future even better. I am personally committed to equal opportunity and civil rights. I urge you, no matter what your job to make it one of your personal goals.

Together, we can make both the Forest Service and all of our people the best they can be."

FUTURE DIRECTION

Progress to date reflects that we are on course with respect to our civil rights/equal opportunity responsibilities in spite of budgetary and hiring constraints, and other obstructions. We will continue to have obstacles; however, good management practice will allow us to manage around them.

Achieving an "ideal" work force by 1995 will require a much broader focus than employment, but employment is the most direct route to realizing our goal. I believe giving emphasis in this brochure to the following areas will enhance the rate with which we reach our employment goal. These emphasis areas are:

- Recruitment
- Retention
- Upward Movement
- Organizational Culture
- Public Awareness

A brief description of each of these areas, along with some general objectives and examples of actions which can be taken to accomplish these objectives follows. These objectives and examples are by no means all inclusive.

Each Forest Service manager and supervisor is expected to draw from these objectives to tailor their plan of action to help the Forest Service achieve its goal of work force diversity. That goal is to have a representation of minorities, women, and handicapped employees in the Forest Service as they currently are in the civilian labor force. Achieving this goal is a bigger challenge than the goal we set in 1976.

You are encouraged to be creative and innovative in expanding on the approaches in each of the areas identified.

United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest Service
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